(c) Since NREP/RLEGP are basically aimed at providing employment to the rural people, raising their economic status, generating additional employment opportunities and strengthening the rural economic and social infrastructure. The guidelines specifically provide that it is only appropriate that the Panchayati Raj institutions are actively involved in its implementation. These guidelines have remained unaltered from the inception of the programme. No State Government has ever expressed any contrary views on the subject.

Civil rights protection panel in States

1155. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to issue instructions to all the State Governments for revival of Civil Rights Protection Panel in their States; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) The term 'Civil Rights' has been defined under the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and means any right accruing to a person by reason of abolition of untouchability under Article 17 of the Constitution. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments and Central assistance provided for setting up such machinery and taking of such measures as are necessary for ensuring that the rights arising from abolition of untouchability are made available to and are availed of by persons subjected to any disability arising out of untouchability. These include the setting up of Committees at such appropriate levels as the State Governments may think fit to assist the State Government in formulating or implementing such measures.

Deaths due to hunger in Orissa

1156. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in the "Indian Express" of the 1st April, 1988 under the caption "Mortgaging wives to stave off hunger" in the Orissa;

(b) whether a number of persons have died of hunger in various parts of Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter to save people from hunger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Curb on granting fresh licences for Shrimp Trawlers

1157. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to impose a curb on the sanctioning of fresh licences for shrimp trawlers as a bid to discourage the catching of shrimps;

(b) whether it is a fact that the West Coast was sapped of shrimp resources;

(c) whether it is a fact that shrimp catches off the east coast might soon reach a saturation point and finally the coast might be sapped of shrimp resources;

(d) whether it is a fact that some of the trawler owners have left for the West Coast in search of lobsters while a few others have declared lay-offs in view of the sharp decline in shrimp catches;

(e) whether it is also a fact that export of marine products from Visakhapatnam reflected a gloomy trend chiefly on account of the fact that fishing at Vishakhapatnam is confined to a great extent to shrimp catches; and

(f) if so, what steps Government propose to take in order to stabilise the export of marine products from Visakhapatnam which is considered to be an important fishing centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government do not allow acquisition of shrimp trawlers at all and in order to discourage catching of shrimp even acquisition of multipurpose vessels also has been banned with effect from 22-5-1987.

(b) and (c) Penaeid shrimp production on the east coast and west coast during the last three years is indicated below:—

(Qty. in tonnes)

Year	Penaeid shrimp production in the East Coast	Penaeid shrimp production in the West Coast
1984	23247	92200
1985	22941	85780
1986	28656	81341

The figures above indicate that during the last three years penaeid shrimp production has been increasing on the coast and more or less reached a saturation point on the western coast.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, some companies have declared lay off in view of self imposed closure season from April to June for shrimping in sand-heads.

(e) Although a fall in the export of marine products from Visakhapatnam has been experienced in 1987-88 compared to the previous year it is considered to be a temporary phenomenon and factors responsible are natural fluctuation in shrimp production, agitation by crew of the deep sea fishing vessels etc.

(f) In order to promote export of marine products from various centres including Visakhapatnam, the measures taken by the Government are—

(i) Development of deep sea fishing through introduction of judicious mix of imported and indigenous deep sea fishing vessels and charter of foreign deep sea fishing vessels.

(ii) Production of value added marine products.

(iii) Development of brackish water shrimp farming.

Construction of houses for the slum dwellers

1158. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of houses constructed for slum dwellers in the country, State-wise, excluding Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi during the last financial year and the amount spent, State-wise; and

(b) the total amount of money allotted for the construction of houses for slum dwellers during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not directly implement any housing scheme for slum dwellers. A Housing & Urban Development are State subjects, State Government/UT Admns. are free to implement all social housing schemes keeping in view their requirements and plan priorities. Since the problem of slum is related to management of urban land and overall urban development planning which are State subjects, appropriate schemes are formulated and implemented only by the State Govts./UT